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# Recognition and management of psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people: summary of NICE guidance

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## Re: Recognition and management of psychosis and schizophrenia in children and young people: summary of NICE guidance

The publication of NICE guidelines relating to the Recognition and management of Psychosis and Schizophrenia in children and young people 1 is to be welcomed given the lack of published guidance in this area, especially concerning the management of young people deemed to be at high risk of psychosis 2,3. However, we feel that the working group may have missed an opportunity to incorporate the views of current adolescent service users. The guideline development process included service-user representation at all stages. However, there was a dearth of published literature in relation to the experiences and treatment preferences of child and adolescent service users with psychosis to draw on 4 although we note the guidelines did not reference our recently published study in this area 5. Indeed, this is a patient group rarely consulted, possibly due to a perception that young people may find it difficult to articulate hallucinatory experiences or have inaccurate recall of events 6,7. However, there is a growing acceptance that eliciting and learning from service users' views is an important means of improving the quality of future health care and research within the NHS 8,9. Indeed, where the evidence base is uncertain, as in the present case, patient preferences may play a more significant role in treatment selection 10.

In response to our concerns we are working with our local Early Intervention in Psychosis service to address this issue by offering information to young people describing possible therapeutic options and asking them to state their preferences.

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**Competing interests:** No competing interests

**07 February 2013**

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